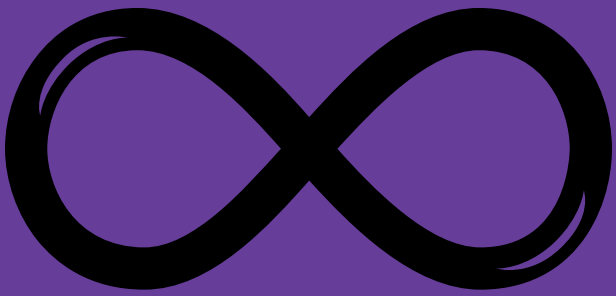
DULWICH COLLEGE
FOUNDED 1619



Celebrating Female Changemakers
Dulwich College International Women's Week



The theme for International Women's Week this year is 'Celebrating Female Changemakers'.

This week, on 8 March, we observe International Women's Day, a globally recognised occasion that acknowledges women's profound social, economic, cultural, and political contributions. As we engage with the talks, subject lessons, societies, and general conversations, we aim to critically examine the persistent challenges to gender equality and reaffirm our dedication to female advancement.

The prevailing global discourse underscores the imperative for accelerated and resolute action in achieving gender parity. This necessitates a concerted effort to dismantle the systemic impediments and biases that continue to hinder women's progress, personally and professionally. While substantial obstacles remain, meaningful progress can be realised through diligent action and unwavering support.

As the Dulwich College community unites in a programme of lectures and events, we embark on a collective endeavour of reflection, enlightenment, and empowerment. We shall celebrate the pioneering women who have demonstrably advanced their respective fields, thereby creating pathways for future generations. Equally, we recognise and commend the men who have served as allies, advocates, and collaborators, facilitating equitable access to resources and opportunities. Their role in fostering inclusivity and dialogue at the College is paramount.

This week, we urge each of you to demonstrate your solidarity with women, participate actively in #AccelerateAction, and play a part in change.

SPEAKERS

MONDAY 10 MARCH – YEARS 10 AND 11, GREAT HALL

Sonali De Rycker | Partner | Accel
Sonali, a tech investor from Mumbai associated with Harvard and Accel, identifies digital disruptors. Guided by her grandmother's wisdom, she appreciates thoughtful decision-making. She's not only adept with technology but also a global powerhouse. She demonstrates that success is a blend of vision, wisdom, and passion.

Victoria Ray | Producer | Gogglebox and Studio Lambert Victoria has a wealth of experience in television, having held previous roles at RDF and Studio Lambert. A graduate of Oxford, she possesses skills in production, camera work, and documentary filmmaking. Her career weaves academic excellence and practical expertise, significantly impacting broadcast media.

MONDAY 10 MARCH – YEAR 13, CHAPEL

Helen Hayes MP | MP for Dulwich and West Norwood | The Labour Party
Helen, a tireless advocate for Dulwich and West Norwood, champions essential local services: the NHS, schools, and housing. She fights against injustice, tackles hospital debt, saves a football club, and combats violence. As a community champion, she embodies the spirit of making real change.

THURSDAY 13 MARCH – YEARS 7 AND 9, GREAT HALL

Anika Scott | Founder and Managing Partner | Rewire
Anika Scott, the founder of Rewire, boasts over 15 years of experience in finance. From Goldman Sachs to A/O Proptech, she is a seasoned leader. She is reshaping markets, taking risks, and building from the ground up. Anika demonstrates vision and drive in high-stakes finance.

Catherine Bremner | Top Civil Servant and Non-executive Director| Met Office Board
Catherine is a climate leader who has championed Net Zero commitments at the G7 and spearheaded government climate initiatives. She is a powerhouse who has transitioned from high-level government roles to leading strategy in sustainable finance. With experience at McKinsey, ANZ, and the IEA, she integrates science, policy, and finance for tangible impact. She discusses climate change and shapes the future of how we address it.

Sarah Threadgould | Managing Partner | Killik & Co
Sarah, a marketing powerhouse from Procter & Gamble to Killik's Managing Partner, drives success. She has excelled at leading top brands, now heads Killik, and advocates for clients. Beyond her business commitments, she supports the Sands charity. Get ready for insights that will challenge your perspectives.

THURSDAY 13 MARCH – CHESS SOCIETY

Bodhana Sivanandan | Woman FIDE Master

Bodhana Sivanandan, a Woman FIDE Master, has excelled in chess since 2020. With numerous European medals and victories over champions, she is regarded as exceptional. At the age of eight, she won multiple European Blitz prizes and became a member of England's Olympiad team, a record-breaking achievement. Her talent inspires dedication and excellence.

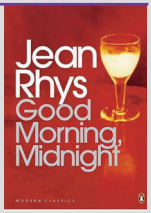
SOCIETIES

Lower School History Society
Fears about Witches in England, 1560-1660
Wednesday 5 March
10.50-11.15
LS02



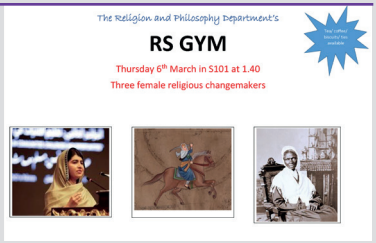
Dr Nick Black will be speaking on attitudes to women and witchcraft in Early Modern Britain.

Lit Soc
Street Haunting: Alienation and the Urban Flaneuese in Jean Rhys'
Good Morning, Midnight
Thursday 6 March
16:00-17:00
Masters' Library



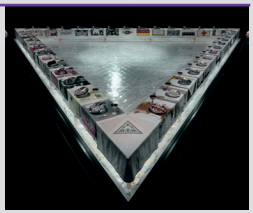
Join Miss Tarr for an exploration of Jean Rhys' 1939 novel - a truly hidden gem - *Good Morning, Midnight.* We will examine the protagonist, Sasha Jansen, on her haunted street walks as she grapples with alienation and loneliness in pre-war Paris.

RS Gym
Three Female Religious Changemakers
Thursday 6 March 2025
13.40-14.30
S101



Exploration and discussion of the change that Malala Yousafzia, Mai Bhago and Sojourner Truth have made within their religions and more widely.

Art Soc
Tea Party (after Chicago)
Friday 7 March
13:45-14:30
Studio 4



Now in its fifth year, our annual Tea Party, inspired by Judy Chicago's Dinner Party, celebrates the contributions of women in art. Year 12 students and art staff come together to discuss gender, creativity, and artistic legacy, creating a space for open and honest conversation.

Science
Her Influence: Exposing the Hidden Networks that Shaped Enlightenment Science
Tuesday 11 March
13:50-14:30
PH01



Scientific discoveries during the Enlightenment are frequently portrayed as the exclusive achievements of solitary male figures, often neglecting the contributions made by their wives, daughters, sisters, and friends in supporting their research. This talk will illuminate these changemakers, along with the unrecognised multitude of male helpers, workmen, and assistants who also remain largely unmentioned.

Upper Case Group – Years 12 and 13 with JAGS
Responding to Virginia Woolf's Pioneering Text, *A Room of One's Own*
Tuesday 11 March

The students will write in response to Virginia Woolf's pioneering text, *A Room of One's Own.*

Middle School Maths Enrichment
How Many Times Can You Fold a Piece of Paper?
Celebrating the Work of Britney Gallivan
Wednesday 12 March
13:45-14:30
M24



Middle School Maths Enrichment celebrates the work of female mathematician Britney Gallivan and explores her amazing formulas for determining how many times a piece of paper can be folded.

African and Caribbean Society
The Woman King
Thursday 13 March
13:45-14:30
The Wodehouse Library



The A&C Society will screen 'The Woman King' during our March meetings.
When French soldiers attempted to colonise the West African kingdom of Dahomey, they faced a resistance unlike any they had encountered before. The Agojie were warriors from an all-female military unit. Join us for the film and to engage in discussions about the history and culture that have had a lasting impact.

Biology Breakfast Club
Hidden Figures in Medicine
Thursday 13 March
8:00
The Buttery

A discussion on the contributions of misrepresented women in medicine and how they have shaped the medical field.

Chess Society
Simultaneous Chess Match
Thursday 13 March
13:00-14:30
Lower Hall



Bodhana Sivanandan is coming to Dulwich College to play against ten boys simultaneously.

Economics Society
Elinor Ostrom: The First Female Nobel Laureate in Economics
Thursday 13 March
13:50-14:30
LG1



Ms Kim and Dr Wisson will discuss the significant contribution of Elinor Ostrom to Economics, particularly her work studying how communities self-organise and manage shared resources.

LitSoc
This Is Not a Dagger You See Before Me:
Challenging Received Wisdom on Shakespeare
Thursday 13 March
16:00-17:00
Masters' Library



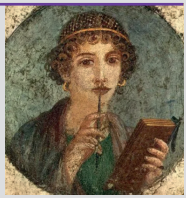
Shakespeare scholar Penny McCarthy will be discussing Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and challenging ideas about when the play was written. Most suggest the play reflects James I's interests and is a reflection on his rule; details and historical events of the late 1590s suggest otherwise. Upper School only.

PrideSoc Drama
Her Stage, Her Voice: A Journey Through Women's Stories
Thursday 13 March
13.45
EAT Theatre Foyer



Year 7 and 8 students will engage in a dynamic exploration of three plays by female playwrights, delving into the rich and diverse feminine perspectives they offer. Through practical workshops, students will bring these stories to life, examining the unique ways these works reflect and challenge societal views on womanhood.

Classics Society
Sulpicia: Female Voices in the Ancient World
Friday 14 March
13:45
C001



An exploration of Sulpicia's poetry and its ancient and modern reception.

Geo Explorers Club (Lower School)
'Only Boys can be Explorers' - Discussion
Monday 17 March
13:45 - 14:30
LS12



Join us at Geo Explorers for a talk and discussion about the stereotypes surrounding the world of 'explorers'. Do men like Bear Grylls portray exploring and adventuring with a certain masculine image? How might this impact women and girls who aspire to engage in these activities as well?

MFL Society
Famous Fascinating French Women
Monday 17 March
13:50
N107



Join us in our discussion about Francophone heroines who have fought for change.

Psychology Society
Gynocentrism: What Is It? Why Do We Need It?
Tuesday 25 March
14:00
BY06



An exploration of psychological theories centred on the gynocentric standpoint and experience. A focus on key female psychologists who have been pivotal in reshaping the field with its origins embedded by 'founding fathers'.

Upper School History Society & Lit Soc
Friday 7 March
16:00 - 17:00
Masters' Library



'Eighteenth Century Dockland Women:
Contemporary Representations Vs Archival Evidence'

The Chameleons
Female Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers
Thursday 13 March

Pupils will be writing responses inspired by female science fiction and fantasy writers.

WordSmiths
Designing a Goddess for the Imaginary World
Thursday 13 March

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LESSONS THIS WEEK:

Chinese Changemakers
Throughout the week, Chinese classes will learn about the stories of architect Lin Huiyin and chemist Tu Youyou, two important changemakers in China.



History of IWD in Germany
Throughout the week, our German lessons for Years 8 to 12 will concentrate on the history of International Women's Day in Germany and key German role models.

Year 8 Drama & Dance Lessons - Matilda - Change Your Story
During our Drama and Dance lessons this term for Year 8 pupils, our main focus has been the story and character of Matilda. We have designed a scheme of work centred around identity and strong female role models. Pupils explore key character traits of Matilda, such as strength, determination, bravery, kindness, creativity, resilience, humility, and being an upstander. They further develop this by examining their own traits and how they can reshape their life stories through playful and creative tasks.

Spanish - Las Diablillas
Monday 3 March
Students will watch the short film "Las Diablillas" and will do some activities around this group of Mayan Women who are fighting equality, through playing baseball. www.youtube.com/watch?v=Js7ZiGnXX6M



Science - Women Who Changed Science
Monday 10 March
The science department will showcase female Nobel Prize winners as starters in lessons this week, examining the reasons for their awards.



Year 12 A Level Music - The Music of Kate Bush
Monday 10 March
LMR
Students will study songs by the artist Kate Bush, focusing particularly on her album Hounds of Love, which was released in 1985.



A Level Music - The Music of Kaja Saariaho
Thursday 13 March
12:20-13:15
LMR
A revision lesson on the work 'Petals' by Finnish composer Kaja Saariaho.



JUNIOR SCHOOL

In the Junior School for International Women's Day, we are excited to continue to explore the theme of 'Changemakers', building on our learning during Black History Month and Pride Month. We will start the week with an assembly on Monday morning to explain the history of International Women's Day and give some context for why it is still needed today. Some of our Junior EDI Ambassadors will also present a female changemaker they look up to. Throughout the week, each class will take part in a special Wellbeing lesson to delve deeper into the theme, and the boys will have a Home Learning task to research an inspirational girl or woman.

During the week, pupils are invited to join a variety of Free Learning activities during lunch break (13:35-2:15pm):

Monday – Philosophy: Thought-provoking questions and discussions on the theme of 'Equality, Equity and Gender'.

Tuesday – Illustration: Join Mr Goodrich and Illustration Club to learn about Frida Kahlo and create your own picture of her.

Tuesday – Rugby Fans: In 3L, you will delve into the world of Women's Rugby, specifically learning about Ilona Maher and the Bristol Bears Women's team.

Wednesday – Debating: To mark IWD, the Debating Club will be open to all and debate the motion: "This house believes that International Women's Day should be a public holiday in every country."

Thursday – Knitting: Come along and make some pom-poms using the IWD colours!

DUCKS

International Women's Day Celebration at DUCKS

From 10-14 March, Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 will celebrate International Women's Day by learning about inspirational women from history to today.

The week before, children will research a woman who inspires them - whether a famous figure like Marie Curie or Amelia Earhart, or a family member like their mum or granny - and share their findings in class. Some presentations will be recorded and edited into a short film.

Throughout the week, children will read books and discuss how these women exemplify our DUCKS Values: Determined, Unique, Confident, Kind, and Selfless, inspiring us to follow their example.

International Women's Week in the Library



The Wodehouse and Raymond Chandler have produced recommended reading lists.

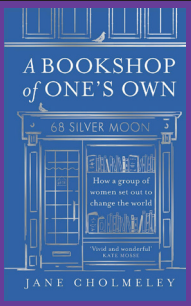
Wodehouse Library
#ReadMoreWomen

https://sway.cloud.microsoft/EP2mpf5KxetN1EFj?ref=email

Raymond Chandler Library
"Gender matters everywhere in the world. And I would like today to ask that we should begin to dream about and plan for a different world. A fairer world. A world of happier men and happier women who are truer to themselves.

https://sway.cloud.microsoft/vWLsL7deEZ67egca?ref=email

Staff Reading Suggestion



A Bookshop on One's Own by Jane Cholmeley

The captivating true story of an underdog business – a feminist bookshop founded in Thatcher's Britain – from a woman at the heart of the women's liberation movement. What was it like to start a feminist bookshop, in an industry dominated by men? How could a lesbian thrive in Thatcher's time, with the government legislating to restrict her rights? How do you run a business when your real aim is to change the world?

Silver Moon was the dream of three women – a bookshop with the mission to promote the work of female writers and create a much-needed safe space for any woman. Founded in 1980s London against a backdrop of homophobia and misogyny, it was a testament to the power of community, growing into Europe's biggest women's bookshop and hosting a constellation of literary stars from Margaret Atwood and Maya Angelou to Angela Carter. While contending with day-to-day struggles common to other booksellers, plus the additional burdens of misogyny and the occasional hate crime, Jane Cholmeley and her booksellers created a thriving business. But they also played a crucial and relatively unsung part in one the biggest social movements of our time.

A Bookshop of One's Own is a fascinating slice of social history from the heart of the women's liberation movement, from a true feminist and lesbian icon. Written with heart and humour, it reveals the struggle and joy that comes with starting an underdog business, while being a celebration of the power women have to change the narrative when they are the ones holding the pen.

– Review from Daunt Books

WHAT'S ON BEYOND DULWICH COLLEGE

Tirzah Garwood: Beyond Ravilious
(free for staff with staff ID card)
Ongoing Exhibition
until the 26 May 2025
Dulwich Picture Gallery

Best known until now as the wife of Eric Ravilious, Garwood excelled as a fine artist and printmaker. This retrospective marks the first time the full extent her output has been shown, giving these captivating works the critical examination and public showcase they deserve.



Spring Concert
Friday 14 March 2025, 1900

The Spring Concert in Southwark Cathedral features an orchestra overture by Polish composer Graszyna Bacewicz (1909-1969). Written in 1943 she pioneered the way for women composers in Poland following WW2. The overture was premiered in Krakow at a festival of contemporary music to mark the end of the war.

